

You've all heard reports about an alleged threat to Senator Barack Obama. We take such allegations very seriously and investigate them carefully. This process takes time and we all appreciate your patience. This is a team effort. The FBI and the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the ATF, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Aurora and Denver Police Departments will keep working closely together in this continuing investigation, along with my office and that of the Denver District Attorney.

As has been widely reported, we learned about alleged threats to Senator Obama during an ongoing criminal investigation here in the

Denver Metro Area involving guns, a bullet-proof ballistic vest, and methamphetamine and related drug-making equipment. That investigation, as I'll explain in a moment, began with a weekend traffic stop in Aurora. Earlier today, I filed federal criminal charges against 3 of those involved.

As for the alleged threat to Senator Obama, the bottom line is this. We've conducted an intensive investigation, chased down numerous leads, and carefully reviewed the evidence to date. It is a very serious federal crime to threaten a Presidential candidate. In this case, however, there is insufficient evidence at this time to indicate a true threat, plot or conspiracy against Senator Obama. The reported threats, hateful and bigoted though they were, involved a group of "meth heads" – methamphetamine users – all of whom were impaired at the time, and cannot be independently corroborated. The evidence involving the alleged threats does not warrant federal charges at this time. However, the investigation is still ongoing and we are all keeping an open mind.

As of this afternoon, 3 of the people involved face other, unrelated federal criminal charges. We went to court this afternoon to present an

affidavit in support of a Criminal Complaint and an arrest warrant for 3 individuals. One of those, Shawn Robert Adolf, is alleged to have made a threat against Senator Obama. I'll discuss the nature of that threat in a moment. Two of Mr. Adolf's associates, Nathan Dwaine Johnson, and Tharin Robert Gartrell, have also been charged.

It all started early Sunday morning with a vehicle stop by Aurora Police officers. An associate of Adolf and Johnson, Tharin Robert Gartrell, was stopped at 1:37 a.m. for erratic driving. A records' check revealed Mr. Gartrell was Driving Under Suspension – that is, with a suspended state driver's license – and had an outstanding local warrant for his arrest.

A search incident to arrest found a small quantity of methamphetamine on Mr. Gartrell's person. The truck, which had been rented, was searched and revealed two rifles with scopes, body armor, two-way radios, wigs, camouflage gear, and items typically used for manufacturing methamphetamine.

Mr. Gartrell was taken to the Arapahoe County jail for Driving Under Suspension, possession of a controlled substance, and the outstanding warrant.

The Gartrell investigation led to the identification of two associates. The first was Nathan Dwaine Johnson. A convicted felon, Johnson admitted to possessing, one of the rifles, the Remington 270, found in the rented truck. This is a violation of federal law, and we charged Mr. Johnson this afternoon. We also charged him with possession of methamphetamine.

The second associate was Shawn Robert Adolph. Mr. Adolph was connected to the other rifle, the Ruger 22-250, found in the truck driven by Mr. Gartrell, as well as the body armor. A records' check showed that Mr. Adolph was wanted on several outstanding warrants, one with a bond set at \$1 million.

Hours after Mr. Gartrell was arrested, at about 6:30 a.m. Sunday, law enforcement officers contacted Mr. Adolf at a Glendale hotel. The officers arrived at the hotel room and identified themselves. Mr. Adolf responded by leaping out the 6th floor window of his hotel room, but

was immediately apprehended. A quantity of methamphetamine was found in the room from which Mr. Adolf jumped.

Mr. Adolf was taken to the hospital to treat injuries sustained from his leap. After treatment, he was arrested and held on the outstanding warrants. Authorities from one of those jurisdictions, Kit Carson County, Colorado, took custody of Mr. Adolf on Monday morning and transported him to Burlington, Colorado, where he remains in custody.

Based on Mr. Adolf's past criminal record, and the facts revealed during the investigation of this case, we today charged him as a convicted felon in possession of a firearm. Violent felons are not legally permitted to possess body armor, and he was charged with that as well, along with possession of methamphetamine.

Mr. Adolf and at least one associate reportedly made threats and racial slurs against Senator Obama. Mr. Adolf also indicated, mistakenly, that they and the Senator were staying in the same hotel. The Affidavit accompanying the Complaint against Mr. Adolf outlines the specifics in more detail.

From a legal standpoint, the law recognizes a difference between a “true” threat – one that might actually be carried out – and the reported racist rantings of illegal drug users. The facts known at this time indicate that the persons reporting the alleged threats were using meth and under the influence of that drug. The reports also indicate that Mr. Adolf was himself using meth when the alleged threatening statements were made. The investigation is continuing, but at this time there is no indication that these reported statements are “true” threats within the meaning of the law, or that any plot or conspiracy existed to harm Senator Obama.